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February 9, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHARDS TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM

CHARLESTON, ILL--Area business and industry representatives and educators interested in the new technologies that are being developed at Caterpillar and students who are pursuing careers in industrial research and development are invited to two talks by a Caterpillar visiting industrial scientist/engineer Thursday, Feb. 10 at Eastern Illinois University.

Thomas Richards, a staff engineer in the New Technology Department of Caterpillar Technical Center in Peoria, will speak to EIU engineering students, faculty and other interested individuals at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Phipps Lecture Hall in the Physical Science Building on the EIU campus.

He will discuss the scope of projects and types of engineers and scientists at Caterpillar, as well as the types of skills needed for industrial research and development.

Richards will give another presentation at 4 p.m. Thursday in Room 215 of the Physical Science Building that will focus on new technology at Caterpillar.

Both lectures, which are part of Eastern's Physics Colloqui-

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um Series, are free and open to the public. Sponsors are the EIU physics department, the Visiting Industrial Scientist/Engineer program of Industrial Research Institute, Inc., and Caterpillar, Inc.

"By hosting a professional such as Dr. Richards, students hear first-hand what it is like to work in research and development in industry and what skills are required. It also facilitates contact with business and industry that may result in future collaborative projects," said Steve Daniels, assistant professor of physics.

Richards has a bachelor's degree from Lake Forest College, master's from Wake Forest University and doctorate from St. Louis University, all in physics.

His position at Caterpillar involves experimental and theoretical analysis, product components, manufacturing processes and technology selection.

Caterpillar's New Technology Department focuses on the discovery and validation of technologies that play an important role in the continued success of Caterpillar. The department falls within the company's Technical Services Division, which provides research and development services to the 13 business units or profit centers that make up Caterpillar.